**Summer Reading List 9-12th Grade**

Read *Catching Fire* before the movie comes out! Have you seen *The Hobbit* in theaters? Read the book and find out how they compare. Who is the man that no jail cell or straight jacket could hold (*hint: famous magician*)? Have you ever hitchhiked on a galactic freeway or met a narrator named Death? Join us for an amazing summer of adventure and READ!

**9th Grade**

**FICTION**

**Anderson, M.T. *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume 1: The Pox Party.* 1090L, Fic, A, MC, AB, E, Se, Cr (Historical Fiction)**

What would you do if you discovered your life was part of an experiment, and that the world as you knew it was about to change in an instant from seemingly normal, to cruel and viciously dangerous? Octavian uncovers a secret that had long been forbidden. Find out how he became a traitor to the nation in this first book about his astonishing life. What you discover might surprise you.

**Collins, Suzanne. *Catching Fire.* 820L, Fic, E, AB, HI/Lr, PC, Se, AF, Cr (Dystopian)**

The second book in *The Hunger Games* trilogy. The odds were most certainly in Katniss and Peeta’s favor as they proclaimed victory in the annual Hunger Games but what fate will befall them now that Katniss is the poster child for a growing rebellion against the Capitol? Find out before the movie comes out (in theaters November 2013).

**Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. 940L, Fic, Cl, AB, AF, E, Se, HI/Lr, Cr (Fantasy)**

Escaping a war-torn home, leaving behind all that is familiar, Lucy, Edmund, Susan, and Peterare sent to stay with an estranged professor. They soon discover a magical wardrobe that has the power to transport them to a far away land where they become royalty, battle the White Witch, and witness the return of the great Aslan. Will you join them? (Book 2 in *The Chronicles of Narnia*).

**McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *Under the Mesquite.* 990L, Fic, A, MC, E, Cr (Realistic Fiction/Free Verse Poetry)**

Lupita is a young high school student who is suddenly faced with the responsibility of taking care of her *hermanos* (siblings) after her family discovers that her mom has cancer. She finds great comfort and strength as she understands and explains the world around her through poetry. “Today I am Eve in the garden, stealing *secretos* (secrets), mining for knowledge, hoping for a taste of the forbidden fruit…” ~ Lupita

**Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.* 920L Fic, A, Cr, MC, AB, HI/Lr (Historical Fiction)**

Today, you probably do not live in fear of the “night riders.” Neither do you have nightmares thinking about what might have happened to your neighbor who disappeared over night in the midst of rumored burnings. For Cassie Logan and her three brothers, growing up black in the 1930’s rural South meant a life plagued by racism and great hardship. They knew first hand about being afraid but more importantly, through the land that their family owned, they also learned a great deal about pride and the strength of family.

**NONFICTION**

**Boas, Jacob. *We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries* *of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust.* 970L, Nf, MC, Cr (Biography)**

Boas, a Holocaust survivor, presents the stories of five Jewish teenagers by sharing excerpts from their diaries that tell of their lives and eventual deaths while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp. The words of the oppressed victims of Hitler’s tyranny scream with anguish but a quiet strength and hope emerges between the lines. Includes excerpts from Anne Frank’s diary.

**Bragg, Georgia. *How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous.* 950L, Nf, HI/Lr, AB, Cr (Informational)**

Did you ever wonder how King Tut met his untimely demise? Or how Cleopatra died? Explore the gory, sickly, and surprising details of the awful ends of nineteen world famous people. Includes illustrations (but it won’t gross you out...much!)

**Fleischman, Sid. *Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini.* 940L, Nf, HI/Lr, AB, Cr (Biography)**

A magician never reveals his secrets! Yet, explore the pages of this book and see for yourself. Walking through walls? Making an elephant vanish? How did the Great Houdini pull off such unimaginable stunts and illusions right before our eyes? Includes never before seen photos.

**Macy, Sue. *Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way).* 1280L, Nf, E, A, Cr (Informational)**

A *National Geographic* exploration of women’s history that reveals how bikes empowered a movement that ushered in social change for women’s rights and liberation. Includes photos, colorful advertisements, cartoons, and songs.

**Sheinkin, Steve. *The* *Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, & Treachery.* 990L, Nf, E, A, Cr (Biography)**

How can someone be considered both a hero and a traitor at the same time? What role did Benedict Arnold play as an American army commander during the American Revolution? Read about his adventurous journey and discover through letters, journal entries, and historic accounts, how he became so infamous.

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**FICTION**

**10th Grade**

**Adams, Douglas.** ***The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy: 25th Anniversary Edition***. **1000L, AF, E, AB, Se, PC (Modern Fantasy)**

Join Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect as they hitchhike their way through the galactic freeway on a hilarious ride through space and time.

**Handler, Daniel.** ***Why We Broke Up***. **980L, E, AB, PC (Realistic Fiction)**

With a long letter and box of artifacts, Min Green tells Ed Slaterton why they broke up. This is a heartwarming and bittersweet high school love story that teens will relate to.

**L’Engle, Madeleine, and Larson, Hope (graphic novel adaptation). *A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel*. 740L, A, GN, AF, Se, (Modern Fantasy)**

Hope Larson superbly adapts the Newberry Medal winner classic A *Wrinkle in Time* into a beautifully illustrated graphic novel that will reintroduce teens to the memorable characters of the story as they battle dark forces to save the universe. This novel is a contemporary and fresh approach to the classic story.

**Stiefvater, Maggie. *The Raven Boys*. 760L, HILr, E, AB, Se, PC (Modern Fantasy)**

Blue Sargent has been warned her whole life that if she kisses her true love, he will die, but she is drawn to Gansey a student from the Aglionby school for boys, known as Raven Boys. Only trouble can come from this.

**Taylor, Laini. *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*. 850L, E, AB, Se, PC (Modern Fantasy)**Meet Karou the blue haired girl in the first book of a trilogy series. Karou encounters creatures and evil angels as she travels the globe on mysterious errands. Soon Karou meets Akiva and a star-crossed love begins. Karou pursues a journey to find out who she really is, but she may not like the secrets that are revealed.

**Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*. 1000L, AF, E, AB, Se, (Modern fantasy)**

*The Hobbit* is J.R.R. Tolkien's classic prelude to *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Follow the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf and a troop of dwarves on an epic journey to raid a treasure protected by a dragon. Along the way Bilbo finds a magic ring and the creepy creature Gollum .Read where it all began. Destiny is calling. The movie based on this book hits theatres winter 2012. Read it before you see it!

**NONFICTION**

**Heiligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma: The Darwin’s Leap of Faith*. 1020L, E, AB, (Biography)**

Deborah Heiligman's new biography of Charles Darwin is a provocative story of the man behind evolutionary theory: The Origin of Species (Theorized in 1859), which sparked intense debates amongst people. Darwin raged a debate within himself while he developed his theory, as he considered the religious belief and faith of his beloved wife Emma, and his family.

**Hopkinson, Deborah. *Titanic: Voices from the Disaster*. 1040L, Cr, AB, (Informational)**

This book by the critically acclaimed author Deborah Hopkinson brilliantly weaves together the voices and stories of real TITANIC survivors and witnesses to the disaster. Filled with action and drama, historical details, archival photographs to support the text, and momentous quotes from primary sources, this story will entertain and inform readers about this tragic historical event as the country recognizes the 100th anniversary of this tragedy.

**Kamkwamba, William. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. 960L, Cr, E, AB, MC, (Autobiography)**

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is the amazing true story of William Kamkwamba, a young man living in Malawi; a land engrossed in drought and people suffering of hunger. With a scientist mind, determination, and a dream, William builds a windmill, a miracle structure that changed the lives of the people. William overcame diversity and empowered the people by bringing them electricity and clean water through learning to harness the wind. This inspiring story proves the point that one person can make a difference.

**O’Reilly, Bill. *Lincoln’s Last Days: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever*. 1020L, Cr, E, AB, (Informational)**

Lincoln’s Last Days is a spellbinding account of one of the most dramatic nights in American history, the assassination of President Lincoln. This book is adapted for young reads from Bill O’Reilly’s historical thriller, Killing Lincoln. This informational text reads like a story and will entertain and inform readers about an important historical event in American history.

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**11th Grade**

**FICTION**

**Heller, Joseph. Catch-22. 1140L, A,Fic, Cr, E (Historical Fiction)**

Set in World War II, Yossarian is stuck in an army struggling with the hilariously sinister bureaucratic rule: a man is considered insane if he willingly continues to fly dangerous combat missions, but if he makes a formal request to be removed from duty, he is proven sane and therefore ineligible to be relieved.

**Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God.* 1080L, A, Fic, Af, E, Ab**

Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams. It is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. This well respected book has been on reading lists since its publication and even has been made into a movie with Oprah!

**Irving, John. *A Prayer for Owen* *Meany.* 1050L, A, E, AB**

In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys—best friends—are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen, after that 1953 foul ball, is extraordinary.

**Westerfeld, Scott. *Peeps.* 840L, Hi/Lr, A, PC, Se (Fantasy)**

The first in the series about Peeps, this book tells the story of Cal Thompson. The 19 year old College Freshman is a carrier of a parasite that causes vampirism, and must hunt down all of the girlfriends he has unknowingly infected. If you like the popular *Twilight* series, this book may be for you!

**Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief.* 730L, Hi/lr, A, Fic, Pc, E**

With Death as the narrator, Zusak tells the story of Liesel Meminger, a young foster girl living outside of Munich in Nazi Germany. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist – books. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever they are to be found. If you love books, this one is for you!

**NONFICTION**

**Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in the Woods.* 1210L, Nf, E, AB**

Bill Bryson recounts his walk along the Appalachian Trail that goes from Georgia to Maine. Along the way, he encounters many new people and sees a large part of America. Not just a book about a walk, this book is a reflection on self-reliance, friendship, and conservatorship in our country.

**Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild.* 1270L, A, AF, E, AB (Memoir)**

Christopher Johnson McCandless gave his savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. The young, well-to-do man hitchhiked across Alaska until his body was found by a moose hunter. Who was this man? Why did he walk into the wilderness alone? Krakauer retraces his life, his relationships and how he ended up where he did.

**Santiago, Esmeralda. *When I Was Puerto Rican: A Memoir.* 1020L, MC, ELL, AB, E, Se (Memoir)**

Esmeralda must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity when she moves from rural Puerto Rico to New York City. The first in a trilogy, the author reflects on her tumultuous childhood and her path to success.

**Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation.* 1240L, Nf, PC, Cr, AF, E, AB**

Fast food has hastened the malling of our landscape, widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. That's a lengthy list of charges, but Eric Schlosser makes them stick with an artful mix of first-rate reportage, wry wit, and careful reasoning.

**Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle.* 1010L, Nf, PC, E, AB (Memoir)**

With alcoholic parents and the responsibility of keeping her family together, Walls explores her unique childhood of a nomad lifestyle. Though she reflects on the difficulties she faces, she maintains a fierce love for the family that raised her. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

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**12th Grade**

**FICTION**

**Boyle, T.C. *The Tortilla Curtain* 1210L, Fic, Cr, E, AB, MC (Realistic Fiction)**

Living in L.A., liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher know exactly what to expect from their ordered lifestyle. They live in gated hilltop community, recycle religiously, and eat sushi. A microcosm away, Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon fight off starvation in a makeshift camp deep in a nearby ravine. A chance encounter brings Candido and Delaney into intimate contact. A freak accident causes these four and their radically opposing worlds to slowly intersect a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding.

**Doctorow, E.L.** ***Homer & Langley* NPLexile, Fic, E, AB (Historical Fiction)**

Based on the true lives of the very unusual Collyer brothers of New York City, this novel affords the reader a glimpse into the hoarding existence of anonymity of the two reclusive brothers. Both a commentary of the 1940s and a tale of human psychology, the story is beautifully written in the voice of one of the eccentric brothers.

**Green, John. *Paper Towns* 850L, HI/Lr, A, Fic, PC, E, AB (Realistic Fiction)**

Quentin Jacobsen has loved his neighbor Margo Roth Spiegelman his entire life. They used to play together as kids but grew apart as teenagers. Different social circles defined them in high school so Quentin is more than surprised when Margo comes to his bedroom window a few weeks before high school graduation to invite him along on one of her escapades. When Margo is gone the next day, Quentin is left with an arsenal of clues he’s sure Margo has left behind so he can find her. The closer he gets to finding her, the less he understands about the girl he thought he knew.

**Simic, Charles. *The Voice at 3:00 A.M.: Selected Late and New Poems* NPLexile, Fic, Cr, E (Poetry)**

Poet laureate of the United States, Charles Simic has been widely celebrated for his brilliant poetic imagery. The poems in this collection, spanning two decades of his work, present an originality and sly humor found in the “everydayness” of life.

**Wilson, August.** ***Two Trains Running*** **NPLexile, Fic, Cr, MC, Se (Play)**

This historical African-American drama, part of a ten part series by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and playwright, takes place during the Civil Rights movement in Memphis Lee’s Diner in Pittsburg, 1969. Characters wrestle with the changing political and social landscape of this American era expressed through everyday conversations as they gather in booths and at the lunch counter. They exude strength with dignity and hope for a better future.

**NONFICTION**

**Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* 920L, HI/Lr, A, Nf, E, AB, MC**

Twelve year old Ishmael first flees from attacking rebels with his friends, but later he is transformed into a cold-blooded soldier. This is a heartbreaking personal memoir of a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s.

**Lewis, Michael. *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game* 980L, A, Nf, E, AB, MC**

The development of the offensive left tackle position to protect a quarterback in the NFL is presented in combination with the true story of Michael Oher, who lived in a Memphis ghetto until he was taken under the protection of a wealthy, loving family.

**Moalem, Sharon. *Survival of the Sickest* 1030L, Nf, E, AB**

Joining the ranks of modern myth busters, Dr. Sharon Moalem turns our current understanding of illness on its head and challenges us to fundamentally change the way we think about our bodies, our health, and our relationship to just about every other living thing on earth, from plants and animals to insects and bacteria.

**Sides, Hampton. *Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin* NPLexile, A, Nf, E, MC, AB**

The gripping true story of the events leading up to King’s assassination and the massive FBI manhunt to find his killer, James Earl Ray.

**Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* 1140L, A, Nf, Cr, E, AB, MC**

“HeLa” cells named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were taken from a tumor removed during Lacks’ treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust, reproducing at a rapid rate. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world. A complex and fascinating drama; a mixture of science and biography with profound themes of racism, ethics, and scientific illiteracy.

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